

REMARKS

Claims 21 to 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,532,218 to Shaffer et al. ("Shaffer") Claims 21, 32 and 40 are presented in independent form.

Claims 21, 32, and 40 have been amended to more accurately define Applicants' invention. Claim 21 discloses a video conferencing system comprising a video server having a video input port for receiving a source video signal appearing on a video output port of an initiating computer. Further, each video server is associated with a unique address associated with the Internet. The video server transforms the source video signal into a video server output signal with a format suitable for communication over the Internet.

The system further comprises a plurality of remote computers, where each of the remote computers executes its own browser application to gain access to the video server directly via the unique Internet address. Once access is granted, the video server downloads the video output signal to each of the remote computers upon its respective access to the video server. Each of the remote computers transforms the downloaded video server output signal into a display signal suitable for viewing on a display device associated with that remote computer. Accordingly, a representation of the source video signal at the initiating computer is viewable on each of the plurality of remote computers.

To be clear, Claim 21 recites that each of a plurality of remote computers wishing to access the video execute their own respective browser application to access the video server via the Internet address associated with the video server. Claim 21 further recites that the video server downloads the video server output signal to each

remote computer upon the respective access via this Internet connection. The downloading occurs upon access and the video signal is in a format suitable for communication over the Internet.

Contrastingly, Applicants believe that Shaffer teaches that remote computers designated as 72a, 72b and 72c access a conferencing server 22 via respective LAN connections 73a, 73b and 73c. (See Shaffer, fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 38-49). Server 22, in Shaffer, in turn, accesses a local video conferencing system 20 that in turn, can access a remote video conferencing system 23 via a WAN or LAN connection. In this arrangement, even with a connection between video conferencing system 20 and remote video conferencing system 23, Shaffer teaches that computers 72a thru 72n do not access the remote conferencing system directly via a unique Internet address. Instead, any such connection is routed via conferencing server 22 as described.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reliance on Shaffer at col. 4, lines 35-45, to support the statement that Shaffer discloses the use of an Internet browser running on each remote computer to access the video server and that the connection is via the Internet address associated with the video server. At most, Applicants believe that the referenced section states that the connection between the remote computers and the server computers can be via a data connection, such as a LAN or Ethernet connection. There is no teaching or implication of a browser application being utilized or communication directly over the Internet. The referenced data or Ethernet connections in Shaffer, do not inherently require use of a browser. For example, a typical FTP connection would satisfy what is described in Shaffer, and such a

connection does not utilize a browser. Further, the connection between each remote computer and its associated video server in Shaffer is not via the Internet.

In Shaffer, it is believed that the connection between video conferencing system 20 and remote video conferencing system 23 is simply the combining of multiple video conferencing systems 20 and 23 wherein each of these conferencing systems serve a number of computers that are local to each video conferencing system. In such a manner, video conferencing based on Shaffer, can be provided between computers that are widely separated from one another.

The Examiner appears to be equating the Internet connection of the present invention with a conferencing systems that is accessed by local computers via a video server within the system. In fact, the present invention does not use a local video server within the system, but instead utilizes an Internet connection to provide video conferencing over large distances. Such a result is achievable because each remote computer executes its own respective browser application to access the video server via the unique Internet address associated with the video server.

For at least these reasons, it is believed clear that independent Claim 21 is allowable over Shaffer. Independent claims 32 and 40 contain similar limitations as those recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 32 and 40 are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 21.

Claims 22-31 and 33-39 are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional

aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case maybe, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

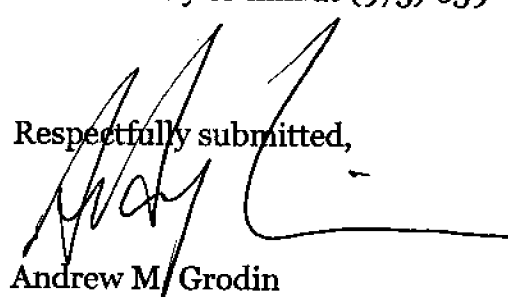
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application. If, however, there are any unresolved issues, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' representative via telephone so that such issues can be quickly resolved.

Correspondence and Fees

No additional fees are believed to be necessitated by the instant response. However, should a fee be required, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account no. 03-3839 for any underpayment, or to credit any overpayments.

Please address all correspondence to the correspondent address for **Customer No. 26345 of Intellectual Docket Administrator, Gibbons P.C.**, One Gateway Center, Newark, NJ 07102-5310. Telephone calls should be made to Andrew M. Grodin at (973) 596-4553 and fax communications should be sent directly to him at (973) 639-8355.

Respectfully submitted,


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